

BACK IN COMMAND WYCOMBE GET SIX

By "CHILTERN"

Bromley 2, Wycombe Wanderers 6.

THAT'S better Wycombe. This good win in Kent on Saturday puts Wanderers back in the championship race. They are level at the top of the Isthmian League with Leytonstone and Kingstonian on points. Leytonstone have four games in hand though, and a far better goal average.

Three goals by Paul Bates, two by Tony Horseman and a cracking header by Les Merrick put Wycombe back in the reckoning and made them look like a team at the top.

Had their midfield passing been more accurate they would have had more attacks and obviously more goals — Bromley's new goalkeeper Hill was uncertain under pressure.

As it was they coasted home, rarely troubled by the Bromley forwards, and using the match as tactical training in short-passing.

It is not hard to see why Bromley have conceded 70 goals in the league this season. Wycombe's forwards were far superior and opened up gaps at will.

But they still insist on lining each other up for a shot, wanting to see the full, open goal before shooting, instead of banging away all the time.

MATTER OF TIME

It looked only a matter of time before Wanderers scored. In the seventh minute Bates broke the fence behind the Bromley goal with a drive from the edge of the area, and then went inches wide with a header after Worley had drawn the defence and crossed.

They had to wait 24 minutes for their first goal. Horseman collected a pass from Worley and ran through the defence, only to be upended as he was about to shoot from close in.

The referee awarded an indirect free-kick and Worley tapped it to Bates who confidently thumped it into the corner of the net.

Horseman got the second 11 minutes later with a header from a Bates pass, and Bates himself added the third four minutes later after Samuels had slipped the ball through a ruck of Bromley defenders.

Just before half-time Brown headed home a corner for Bromley, and soon after the interval the home side were reduced to 10 men when right-back Evans was off for five minutes after a collision with a pair of Wycombe forwards.

To everyone's astonishment Bromley were awarded a penalty after speedy right-winger Warman

had run into John Beck. Brown scored from the spot.

Wanderers proceeded to pile on the pressure. Horseman hit a post before Merrick barged through a goalmouth melee to head home Bates' corner. Samuels put Bates through for his third and just before the final whistle Horseman made it six.

Full marks to Bromley for never giving up. They fought to the end, and their forwards, dangerous in spasms, were well led by Brown.

In the dying minutes Maskell made a fine diving save to Brown and Bradshaw relieved pressure on the Wycombe goal. John Beck had a good game against the fast Warman, and the half-backs shaped better than in recent weeks.

Granted, Wanderers played much better than they were allowed to against Leytonstone the previous week. Yet this game at Bromley can be counted as a breather. It won't be as easy against Sutton tomorrow.

Bromley 2 Wycombe 6

STRUGGLING Bromley, who have conceded 70 Isthmian League goals this season, failed to subdue Wycombe's lively leader, Paul Bates, and he scored a brilliant hat-trick.

This was Bromley's sixth successive defeat and although they pulled the score back to 3-2 after Bates (2) and Tony Horseman put Wycombe 3-0 ahead inside 38 minutes, they gave Wanderers little trouble.

Centre forward Pat Brown put Bromley back in the game by heading in a Warman corner after 42 minutes, and in the 56th minute Brown converted a penalty kick.

But Bates wrecked all Bromley's hopes. From his corner Merrick headed Wycombe 4-2 ahead, then Bates ran on to Beck's pass to complete his hat-trick.

In the closing seconds Horseman got a sixth from Bradshaw's free-kick.